

Trump seethes through the start of trial in New York lawsuit accusing him of lying about his wealth

By Michael R. Sisak, Jake Offenhartz and Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Aggrieved and defiant, former President Donald Trump spent a day in court Monday for the sometimes testy start of a trial in a fraud lawsuit that could cost him control of Trump Tower and other prized properties.

"Disgraceful trial," he declared during a lunch break, after listening to lawyers for New York Attorney General Letitia James excoriate him as a habitual liar. The state's lawsuit accuses the business mogul-turned-politician and his company of deceiving banks, insurers and others by misstating his wealth for years in financial statements.

"They were lying year after year after year," Kevin Wallace, a lawyer in James' office, said as Trump sat at the defense table. He looked straight ahead, arms crossed, facing away from a screen that showed details of Wallace's presentation.

Trump denies wrongdoing and voluntarily attended a trial that he called a "sham," a "scam," a waste of the

state's time and "a continuation of the single greatest witch hunt of all time." Currently the Republican front-runner in the 2024 presidential race, he reiterated claims that James, a Democrat, is trying to thwart his bid to return to the White House.

"What we have here is an attempt to hurt me in an election," he said outside court, adding, "I don't think the people of this country are going to stand for it."

Trump sneered at James as he passed her on his way out at lunchtime; she left smiling. Meanwhile, his campaign immediately began fundraising off the appearance. But Trump left for the day claiming he'd scored a victory, pointing to comments that he viewed as Judge Arthur Engoron coming around to the defense view that most of the suit's allegations are too old.

The judge suggested that testimony about Trump's 2011 financial statement was beyond the legal time limit. Wallace promised to link it to a more recent loan agreement, but Trump took



Former President Donald Trump speaks to reporters as he leaves New York Supreme Court in New York, Monday, Oct. 2, 2023.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)
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the judge's remarks as an "outstanding" development for him.

Engoron ruled last week that Trump committed fraud in his business dealings. If upheld on appeal, the ruling could force Trump to give up New York properties including Trump Tower, a Wall Street office building, golf courses and a suburban

estate. Trump has called it a "a corporate death penalty" and insisted the judge, a Democrat, is unfair and out to get him.

The non-jury trial concerns six remaining claims in the lawsuit, including allegations of conspiracy, insurance fraud and falsifying business records. Engoron said that neither side sought a jury and

that state law doesn't allow for juries when suits seek not only money but a court order setting out something a defendant must do or not do. James is seeking \$250 million in penalties and a ban on Trump doing business in New York.

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Trump seethes through the start of trial in New York lawsuit accusing him of lying about his wealth



Former President Donald Trump, center, speaks to the media upon arriving at New York Supreme Court, Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, in New York.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

Continued from Front

"No matter how powerful you are, and no matter how much money you think you have, no one is above the law," she said on her way into the courthouse. Trump says that James and the judge are undervaluing such assets as his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida. He and his lawyers also maintain that disclaimers on his financial statements made clear

The former president, his two eldest sons, Trump Organization executives and fixer-turned-foe Michael Cohen are all listed among dozens of potential witnesses. Trump isn't expected to testify for several weeks. His trip to court Monday marked a remarkable departure from his past practice. Trump didn't go to court as either a witness or a spectator when his company and one of its top executives was convicted of tax fraud last

year. He didn't show, either, for a civil trial earlier this year in which a jury found him liable for sexually assaulting the writer E. Jean Carroll in a department store dressing room.

This time, "I wanted to watch this witch hunt myself," he said outside court.

In a recent court filing, James' office alleged Trump exaggerated his wealth by as much as \$3.6 billion.

He claimed his three-story Trump Tower penthouse, replete with gold-plated fixtures, was nearly three times its actual size and worth \$327 million, far more than any New York City apartment ever has fetched, James said. He valued Mar-a-Lago as high as \$739 million — more than 10 times a more reasonable estimate of its worth, James maintained.

"Every estimate was determined by Mr. Trump," Wallace said in his opening statement. He pointed to pretrial testimony by Trump Organization figures and ex-insiders including Cohen, who said the company esti-

mated assets to get to a predetermined number "that Mr. Trump wanted."

Wallace said the alleged scheme got the company better loan rates, saving it \$100 million in interest.

"They hid their weaknesses and convinced these banks to take on hundreds of millions of dollars in risk," he said, adding, "While the defendants can exaggerate to Forbes magazine or on television, they cannot do it while conducting business in the state of New York."

Defense lawyers said the financial statements were legitimate representations of prime properties that can command top dollar.

"That is not fraud. That is real estate," attorney Alina

Habba said in an opening statement. She accused the attorney general's office of "setting a very dangerous precedent for all business owners in the state of New York."

Defense experts will testify that valuing properties is subjective, Trump attorneys said. He and his lawyers have also argued that no one was harmed by anything in the financial statements, which were given to banks to secure loans and to financial magazines to justify his place among the world's billionaires.

Banks that made loans to him were fully repaid. Business partners made money. And Trump's own company flourished. □

Hundreds join search for 9-year-old girl who vanished during camping trip in upstate New York park

By Michael Hill
Associated Press

MOREAU, N.Y. (AP) — Hundreds of law enforcement officers, forest rangers and others searched an expanding swath of upstate New York on Monday for a 9-year-old girl who vanished during a camping trip over the weekend. Charlotte Sena disappeared while riding her bicycle Saturday evening in Moreau Lake State Park, about 35 miles (60 kilometers) north of Albany, according to the state police. Police fear she may have been abducted.

The girl's family pleaded with the public for help in finding Charlotte, including providing any tips to the state police.

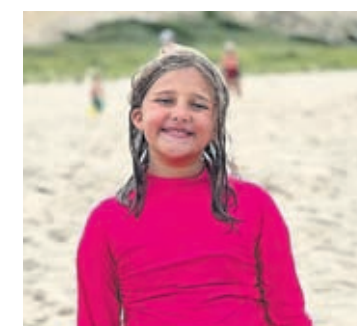
"We just want her returned safely like any parent would," the family said in a statement. "No tip is too small, please call if you know anything at all."

About 400 people took part in the search Monday, up from more than 100 the day before, state police said. The searchers included state and local police, forest rangers, local volun-

teer firefighters, and some private search and rescue groups, officials said. Authorities also requested help from the FBI.

The search expanded over 46 linear miles (74 linear kilometers) by Monday, with much of the area heavily wooded.

Troopers set up several checkpoints on the winding, rural roads around the park. They stopped drivers and asked if they knew the family, had seen the girl's photo or had any other information that could help the search. They also had some drivers open their trunks. □



This photo provided by her family on Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, shows Charlotte Sena, 9, who vanished during a camping trip in upstate New York.

(Family photo via AP)

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The Supreme Court opens its new term with a case about prison terms for drug dealers

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court opened its new term Monday with a case about prison terms for drug dealers and rejections of hundreds of appeals, including one from an attorney who pushed a plan to keep former President Donald Trump in power.

The court turned away attorney John Eastman's effort to have a lower-court ruling thrown out that said Eastman and Trump had "more likely than not" committed a crime by trying to keep Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 election. Justice Clarence Thomas, who once employed Eastman as a law clerk, did not take part in the court's consideration of Eastman's appeal.

The only case argued Monday concerns the meaning of the word "and" in a federal law dealing with prison terms for low-level drug dealers. The length of thousands of sentences a year is at stake.

"I think this is a very hard case," Justice Amy Coney



The Supreme Court is seen on April 21, 2023, in Washington. The new term of the high court begins next Monday, Oct. 2.

Barrett said during 90 minutes of arguments that did not suggest how the court might rule.

The term is shaping up as an important one for social media as the court continues to grapple with applying older laws and rulings to the digital age.

Several cases also confront the court with the continuing push by conservatives to constrict federal regulatory agencies. On Tuesday, the court will hear a challenge that could disrupt the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The court also is dealing with the fallout from ma-

ior rulings a year ago that overturned *Roe v. Wade* and expanded gun rights. A gun case will be argued in November.

Limits on mifepristone, a drug used in the most common method of abortion, could be before the court by spring.

Among the bigger unknowns is whether any disputes will reach the court involving the prosecution of Trump or efforts to keep the Republican off the 2024 ballot because of the Constitution's insurrection clause.

Apart from cases, the justices are discussing a first-

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)

ever code of conduct, though disagreements remain, Justice Elena Kagan said recently.

The push to codify ethical standards for the justices stems from a series of stories questioning some of their practices.

Many of those stories focused on Thomas and his failure to disclose travel and other financial ties with wealthy conservative donors, including Harlan Crow and the Koch brothers. But Justices Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor also have been under scrutiny.

On Monday, Thomas did not explain his decision to

stay out of Eastman's case, which involved emails that Eastman was trying to keep from the House committee that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol.

Some of those emails, since made public, are between Eastman and another lawyer, Kenneth Chesebro, in which they mention Thomas as their best hope to get the Supreme Court to intervene in the election outcome in a case from Georgia.

Trump, Eastman and Chesebro are among 19 people who have been indicted in Fulton County, Georgia, for their efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

Life at the court has more or less returned to its pre-COVID-19 normal over the past two years, though arguments last much longer than they used to and Sotomayor, who has diabetes, continues to wear a mask on the bench.

One other change that resulted from the coronavirus pandemic remains: The court is livestreaming audio of all its arguments. Cameras remain forbidden. □

The Pentagon warns Congress it is running low on money to replace weapons sent to Ukraine

By Lolita Baldor and
Tara Copp
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon is warning Congress that it is running low on money to replace weapons the U.S. has sent to Ukraine and has already been forced to slow down resupplying some troops, according to a letter sent to congressional leaders. The letter, obtained by The Associated Press, urges Congress to replenish funding for Ukraine. Congress averted a government shutdown by passing a short-term funding bill over the weekend, but the measure dropped all assistance for Ukraine in the battle against Russia.

Pentagon Comptroller Mi-

chael McCord told House and Senate leaders there is \$1.6 billion left of the \$25.9 billion Congress provided to replenish U.S. military stocks that have been flowing to Ukraine. The weapons include millions of rounds of artillery, rockets and missiles critical to Ukraine's counter-offensive aimed at taking back territory gained by Russia in the war.

In addition, the U.S. has about \$5.4 billion left to provide weapons and equipment from its stockpiles. The U.S. would have already run out of that funding if the Pentagon hadn't realized earlier this year that it had overvalued the equipment it had already sent, freeing up about \$6.2 billion. Some of that has been sent in re-

cent months.

McCord said the U.S. has completely run out of long-term funding for Kyiv through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which provides money to contract for future weapons.

"We have already been forced to slow down the replenishment of our own forces to hedge against an uncertain funding future," McCord said in the letter. "Failure to replenish our military services on a timely basis could harm our military's readiness."

He added that without additional funding now, the U.S. will have to delay or curtail air defense weapons, ammunition, drones and demolition and breaching



Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, speaks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during a wreath laying ceremony at the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, Sept. 21, 2023, in Washington, as first lady of Ukraine, Olena Zelenska, looks on.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

equipment that are "critical and urgent now as Russia prepares to conduct a winter offensive."

President Joe Biden said Sunday that while the aid will keep flowing for now, time is running out.

"We cannot under any circumstances allow America's support for Ukraine to be interrupted," Biden said. "We have time, not much time, and there's an overwhelming sense of urgency." □



Emergency responders set up a staging area near Teutopolis High School on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, in Teutopolis, Ill.
(Jeff Long/Effington Daily News via AP, File)

By John O'Connor
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Five people died from exposure to a chemical that spilled after a semitruck overturned in central Illinois, according to autopsies conducted Monday. Effingham County Coroner Kim Rhodes said official results from the autopsies won't be available for several weeks. The victims of the multi-vehicle crash in Teutopolis, about 110 miles (177 kilometers) northeast of St. Louis, were Teutopolis resident Kenneth Bryan, 34, and his children, Walker Bryan, 10 and Rosie Bryan, 7; Danny J. Smith, 67 of New

Haven, Missouri; and Vasile Cricovan, 31, of Twinsburg, Ohio, were killed. The tanker traveling on U.S. 40 Saturday night veered to the right to avoid a collision when another vehicle tried to pass it. It toppled and hit the trailer hitch of a vehicle parked just off the road. The tanker jackknifed and was left with a 6-inch (15-centimeter) hole in the chemical container, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. The crash spilled more than half of the tanker's 7,500-gallon (28,390-liter) load of anhydrous ammonia — a chemical that can

5 died of exposure to chemical in central Illinois crash, preliminary autopsies find

burn or corrode organic tissue. It is used by farmers to add nitrogen fertilizer to the soil, and can act as a refrigerant in the cooling systems of large buildings such as warehouses and factories. Tom Chapman, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, said Sunday that the remainder of the cargo had been removed and taken to a secure location as part of the board's investigation. The toxic plume released forced the temporary evacuation of about 500 Teutopolis residents within a 1-mile (1.6-kilometer radius) of the crash site. Gina Willenborg, 36, and her husband, Jeff, were returning from an out-of-town wedding when a relative called about the evacuation. Willenborg said they were anxious to get home, where a babysitter was watching their three children, ages 7, 5 and 2. Their car was deep in the

highway blockade in Effingham, 4 miles (6.4 kilometers) west of Teutopolis, where police were turning away most drivers. Jeff Willenborg rushed to the front and told authorities they had to get by to retrieve their children. "We got that call that there are people passing out. You don't know what's true, what's not, but we could start to smell something," Gina Willenborg said. "We start freaking out and so I called the sitter and said, 'Just go ahead, wake the kids up and just get out.'" They were able to meet the babysitter at the children's daycare back in Effingham. "Everyone's hearts are just broken," Gina Willenborg said. People's lives "have been taken and other people are going to be having long, lingering effects," she said. Rhodes reported that five people, ranging in ages 18

to 61, were airlifted to hospitals. Officials at GoFundMe said campaigns to defray expenses have been established for the Bryan family and Cricovan. Ping's Tavern, on the edge of the evacuation zone, on Sunday raised \$7,000 for the Bryan family, according to a Facebook post. According to the American Chemical Society, anhydrous ammonia is carried around the United States by pipeline, trucks and trains. In addition to having a commercial driver's license, the person behind the wheel of a toxic-substance tanker must study further and successfully complete a test for a hazardous material endorsement, said Don Schaefer, CEO of the Midwest Truckers Association. But unless posted otherwise, there are no restrictions on transporting anhydrous ammonia on a public road, Schaefer said. □

Elon Musk facing defamation lawsuit in Texas over posts that falsely identified man in protest

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A California man who says he was harassed after Elon Musk amplified posts on his social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, that falsely placed the man at a confrontation involving far-right protesters sued the billionaire for defamation in a lawsuit filed Monday. Benjamin Brody, 22, is represented by Mark Bankston, a Texas attorney who won a defamation case last year against conspiracy theorist Alex Jones in a lawsuit brought by families of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting. Brody is seeking a jury trial in Austin, Texas, and unspecified damages of at least \$1 million. Attorneys for Musk did not immediately respond to requests for comment left through a spokesperson. In June, video posted to X showed a confrontation involving protesters near



Twitter, now X. Corp., and Tesla CEO Elon Musk poses before his talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, May 15, 2023, at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

a Pride festival in Oregon. Some of those involved wore the same colors of the Proud Boys extremist group, according to The Oregonian. On X, some users

falsely identified one of the participants as Brody, highlighting his post-college plans to work for the government to spread baseless assertions that federal

agents were involved. The lawsuit includes screenshots of Musk engaging with users spreading the posts involving Brody, including one in which Musk

described it as a "probable false flag situation." Brody, a recent college graduate who said he was in California when the event happened, came under harassment because of Musk's reach, according to the lawsuit. The posts by Musk were still on X as of Monday. It is not the first time Musk has been sued for defamation. He defeated a lawsuit in 2019 from a British cave explorer who claimed he was branded a pedophile when the Tesla CEO called him "pedo guy" on what was then called Twitter. Musk's tech company has also taken others to court over what is posted on the site. In August, X sued a group of researchers over accusations that their work highlighting an increase in hate speech on the platform cost the company millions of dollars of advertising revenue. □

Associated Press

Britain's Treasury chief raises the minimum wage but angers some colleagues by ruling out tax cuts

By Jill Lawless

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, England (AP)

— Britain's Treasury chief announced a hike in the national minimum wage Monday, as the governing Conservative Party tries to persuade voters it is on the side of workers who are struggling financially.

But Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt ruled out tax cuts, saying they would fuel inflation.

"I do want us to have lower taxes," Hunt told Sky News before giving a speech at the party's annual conference. But he said "it's very difficult to see" it happening this year.

That message was not what many Conservatives at the party's conference in Manchester wanted to hear. Hundreds of them packed a room to applaud as former Prime Minister Liz Truss — whose seven weeks in office last year plunged Britain's economy into crisis — demanded Hunt slash taxes in his fall budget next month.

Hunt told conference delegates that the hourly rate for workers 23 and older will rise in April from 10.42 pounds (\$12.70) to at least 11 pounds (\$13.40). The exact amount will be set after a recommendation by



Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt arrives on stage to deliver his keynote speech to the Conservative Party annual conference in Manchester, England, Monday Oct. 2, 2023.

(Stefan Rousseau/PA via AP)

the Low Pay Commission, an advisory body, but Hunt more than 2 million workers will see pay increases.

Hunt also pledged to freeze civil service recruitment to cut costs and to toughen the rules on social benefits in an attempt to stem the flow of working-age people out of the workforce, a trend that has accelerated since the coronavirus pandemic.

"It isn't fair that someone who refuses to look seriously for a job gets the same as someone trying their best,"

he said, in remarks that drew concern from anti-poverty groups.

The party is trying to sprinkle voter-pleasing measures such as the minimum wage increase at the conference, which may be the last before a national election due in 2024. But the government's spending power is constricted by the U.K.'s sluggish economy and stubbornly high inflation that hit double digits last year, and now stands just below 7%.

The result was a grab-bag

of generally inexpensive policy announcements: a ban on children using cell-phones in school, a curb on local authorities slapping "excessive fines on motorists" and a push for "smarter regulation."

Opponents see a government that has run out of big ideas and a party heading for defeat. The right-of-center Tories, in power since 2010, are lagging far behind the center-left opposition Labour Party in opinion polls. Voters are weary after years of political turmoil

over the U.K.'s exit from the European Union, the pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis fueled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who took office just under a year ago, is facing grumbling — and even open rebellion — from some Conservative members and lawmakers.

Sunak steadied the economy after his predecessor Truss crashed the pound and trashed Britain's reputation for fiscal prudence with her tax-slashing economic plans.

But many Conservatives doubt whether Sunak, the party's fifth leader since 2016, can restore its popularity to the level that saw the party win an 80-seat majority in the 650-seat House of Commons in 2019. The prime minister then, Boris Johnson, resigned in mid-2022 amid scandals over his ethics and judgment.

In recent weeks, Sunak has sought to take the initiative with a clutch of measures depicted as easing the economic burden on taxpayers. He has delayed a ban on selling new gas and diesel cars and watered down other green measures that he said imposed "unacceptable costs" on ordinary people. □

Officials say 2 are still missing after a Spanish nightclub fire killed 13. The club lacked a permit

Associated Press

MADRID (AP)

— Authorities in the southern Spanish city of Murcia said Monday that two people believed to have been in a nightclub where 13 others died in a fire are still missing and that the club was operating without a permit.

The town hall's announcement on X, formerly known as Twitter, came after Francisco Jiménez, the central government's official for the region, earlier said all the missing had been located and no more bodies had been found. Jiménez later said there had been

confusion in the figures for the missing.

Jiménez said the dead included the nationals of Spain, Colombia, Ecuador and Nicaragua. It was not known how many people were in the club when the fire broke out at 6 a.m. Sunday. It was the deadliest nightclub blaze in Spain since 43 people were killed in Zaragoza in 1990.

On Monday, firefighters and police continued to assess damage before beginning to search for clues as to how the fire started. The blaze started in one nightclub and spread to

two others nearby, Spanish state news agency EFE said. All the bodies were found in the first nightclub. Twenty-four people were injured but none was hospitalized. Murcia town hall reported that authorities had rejected permit renewals for the two nightclubs and ordered them closed in 2022. The city said it would investigate how the clubs had continued operating. Representatives of the clubs denied on Spanish national television that they had been operating illegally.

The city council declared



In this photo provided by Bomberos/ayuntamiento de Murcia, part of the burned-out interior a nightclub which caught fire is pictured in Murcia, south-eastern Spain, Sunday Oct. 1, 2023.

(Bomberos/ayuntamiento de Murcia, via AP)

three days of mourning with flags flown at half-staff on public buildings. A min-

ute's silence was held outside Murcia's town hall at noon Monday. □

Brazil's government starts expelling non-Indigenous people from two native territories in the Amazon

By **Mauricio Savarese**
Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil's government on Monday began removing thousands of non-Indigenous people from two native territories in a move that will affect thousands who live in the heart of the Amazon rainforest.

The South American nation's intelligence agency ABIN said in a statement that the goal is to return the Apyterewa and Trincheira Bacaja lands in Para state to the original peoples. It did not say whether or not the expulsion of non-Indigenous people has been entirely peaceful.

The territories are located around the municipalities of Sao Felix do Xingu, Altamira, Anapu and Senador Jose Porfirio in Para state. Brazil's government said the country's Supreme Court and other judges had ordered the operation. Indigenous groups estimate more than 10,000 non-Indigenous people are living inside the two territories. ABIN said as many as 2,500 Indigenous people live in 51 villages within.

"The presence of strangers on Indigenous land threat-



Indigenous Xikrin warriors return from a failed attempt to expel land squatters from the Trincheira Bacaja Indigenous territory, in Brazilian Amazon, Para state, Brazil, Aug. 24, 2019.

(AP Photo/Fabiano Maisonave)

ens the integrity of the Indigenous (people) and causes other damages, such as the destruction of forests," the agency said in its statement. It added that about 1,600 families live illegally in that region with some involved in illegal activities such as cattle raising and gold mining. "They also destroy native vegetation."

The Apyterewa territory had the most deforestation of any Indigenous land in Brazil for four years running, according to official data. Footage obtained by local media and shared on social media in September showed hundreds of non-Indigenous people living in a newly built town with restaurants, bars and church-

es deep inside the lands of the Parakana.

Other authorities that participated in the action on Monday included Brazil's ministry of Indigenous Peoples, environment protection agency IBAMA, the federal police and armed forces, among many others. Several of those bodies were defanged and did

little to protect Indigenous peoples' territories during the far-right administration of former President Jair Bolsonaro between 2019 and 2022. Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva began rebuilding environment protection agencies and has so far created eight protected areas for Indigenous people. Soon after the beginning of his administration, his government expelled thousands of gold miners from the massive Yanomami Indigenous territory in the northern state of Roraima.

State and federal authorities this year also dislodged landgrabbers from the Alto Rio Guama territory. They threatened forcible expulsion of those settlers failing to leave, and pledged to eliminate access roads and irregular installations; nearly all of the illegal residents departed voluntarily. Encroachment on such territories over recent years prompted Brazil's top court on Thursday to enshrine Indigenous land rights by denying a suit backed by farmers that sought to block an Indigenous group from expanding the size of its territorial claim. □



Secretary of State Antony Blinken, right, meets with Kenya's President William Ruto, left, Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, in New York.

(AP Photo/Jason DeCrow, Pool)

By **Danica Coto**
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The U.N. Security Council voted Monday to send a multinational force to Haiti led by Kenya to help combat violent gangs in the troubled Caribbean country. The resolution drafted by

the U.S. and Ecuador was approved with 13 votes in favor and two abstentions from China and the Russia Federation.

The resolution authorizes the force to deploy for one year, with a review after nine months. It comes nearly a year after Haiti's prime minister requested the im-

UN Security Council approves sending a Kenya-led force to Haiti to fight violent gangs

mediate deployment of an armed force and would mark the first time a force is deployed to Haiti since a U.N.-approved mission nearly 20 years ago.

"More than just a simple vote, this is in fact an expression of solidarity with a population in distress," said Jean Victor Génés, Haiti's foreign affairs minister. "It's a glimmer of hope for the people who have been suffering for too long."

A deployment date has not been set, although U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently said a security mission to Haiti could deploy "in months." Meanwhile, Kenya's Foreign Affairs Minister, Alfred

Mutua, said last week that the force could deploy within two to three months, or possibly early January. He also noted that key officers are being taught French.

It wasn't immediately clear how big the force would be. Kenya's government has previously proposed sending 1,000 police officers. In addition, Jamaica, the Bahamas and Antigua and Barbuda also have pledged to send personnel.

"With this action, the council has ignited a beacon of hope for the beleaguered people of Haiti," said Martin Kimani, Kenya's U.N. representative.

Last month, the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden promised to provide logistics and \$100 million to support the Kenyan-led force.

About 60% of Haiti's more than 11 million people earn less than \$2 a day, with poverty deepening further in recent years as inflation spikes.

The deployment of an armed force is expected to restore peace and security to Haiti so it also can hold long-awaited general elections that have been repeatedly promised by Prime Minister Ariel Henry after the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. □

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The Casino Aruba at Hilton hosts the Caribbean Poker Series 2023

Palm Beach - The 2023 edition of the Caribbean Poker Series unfolded at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, September 21st to October 1st.

Following its successful of previous years, the tournament again is enjoying the unique hospitality of the Casino Aruba with US\$150,000.- in guaranteed cash prizes.

The tournament includes exciting rounds of poker almost around the clock, a tropical meet & greet pool-deck reception and an awards evening.

Most of the tournament action during the 10 tournament days took place in the Morris Lapidus Ballroom, Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, where poker tables were especially set up for participants. More live poker is being played at the casino itself, in the Poker Room.

With 14 Rings and the highly anticipated Main Event Bracelet, on Sunday, poker enthusiasts showed up from around the world, to take part in the exciting program.



Competitive poker, relaxation, and island splendor presented an opportunity to make memories, showcase players' poker prowess, and experience the charm of Aruba like never before.

For more updates and information, please visit www.tcaruba.com/pages/caribbean-poker-series-2023

The Poker Room at the casino is open from 3pm to 3am, offering 4-8 limit, 2-5 & 5-5 no limit, Texas Hold'em, Omaha & Tournaments. Live Table Games include Blackjack & Roulette, and Caribbean Stud Poker. Open 11am to 3am, Monday to Sunday. You may apply for the casino membership card, it's FREE and redeem points collected for prizes and surprises.

The Casino at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, is affiliated to Liv Casino at the Barcelo Aruba, and under the management of Island Gaming NV.

About the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino: Sun, a breeze, white sands, lush palm trees – welcome to your tropical getaway at Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino. Relax, rejuvenate at the beachfront spa, sip a daiquiri by two sparkling pools, and experience first class dining. Play the tables at the casino or learn to scuba dive, whether you're here for a tournament, a wedding or a family vacation, our amenities and resort activities ensure it's a memorable stay. □





Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday

and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of



its kind on the island.

America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an



accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rcccaruba. □



Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and some-

times even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters



above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that runs on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps.

Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □



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Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Barceló Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. This couple was honored with a certification honoring their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors of Aruba

Mr. Joseph Petri & Mrs. Maryann Pagliaro from New Jersey, United States.

Mr. Jonathan Boekhoudt representing the



Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Barceló bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, and as their home away from home.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their

continued visits to the "One Happy Island". Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by Mr. Petri & Mrs. Pagliaro were:

- "Aruba is our favorite island."
- Aruba's warm weather.
- Aruba's friendly people.
- Aruba's peacefulness.
- "Aruba is our home away from home." □



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any oth-

er materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a

lovely message from **Karen & Dennis McCarthy from Massachusetts, USA.**

They wrote to us saying: "What Aruba means to us is of course the beautiful sunrises, sunsets, the food and the weather, the friendly people and the ocean but it's more than that to us: it's relaxation, rejuvenation and taking the time to remember what's really important in life: spending time with each other. We get caught up in the every day life sometimes we forget what or who's really

important. We renewed our vows here seven years ago, we've been coming to the island for 19 years + and it's become a part of us, it's in our blood. Life is too short to miss a beat and this is where our hearts truly beat. Stress free, worry free even if only for the week we are here. It truly makes us happy and reconnect with each other. Thank you Aruba!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928,



that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the



1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the atten-

tion of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.



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Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas

Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

Philip's Animal Garden



To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from

horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: www.philipsanimalgarden.com.

The Lighthouse



No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves



Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you

are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some work-out -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour



A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the north-eastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock formations and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadirikiri and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok National Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24 hours a day.

Go for a shopping spree in the city center



Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different stores—both high end and more affordable—that can offer you the service you deserve! Local shopping stores often offer a more affordable price, and have a variety of clothes, shoes, bathing suites, purses and more. Along the Royal Plaza strip, there are numerous jewelry stores with great quality jewelry. In the Renaissance mall, you can shop high-end luxury brands, like Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton and more.

Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a variety of shopping stores, restaurants, small food stands and even a movie theater! ☐

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Be in
 - 1 Concede accord
 - 6 Set one's sights
 - 41 Racket
 - 42 Plane
 - 11 Smoker's choices
 - 43 Polite
 - 12 Play part chaps
 - 13 Some sharks

DOWN

- 15 Unclose, to poets
- 2 Hang loosely
- 16 Bartender on "The Simpsons"
- 3 Acted word-
- 17 Spinning lessly
- 4 "— a Rock"
- 18 Cinnamon candies
- 5 Quakes
- 6 Grill waste
- 7 Water cooler
- 22 Boxing pasty, e.g.
- 8 Cornish wine
- 23 Skate park sights
- 26 Runs away
- 27 Green and Longoria
- 28 Bee follower
- 29 Slugger Williams
- 30 Nut
- 34 Hot blood
- 35 Curved path
- 36 Hoopla
- 37 Manicuring tool

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Yesterday's answer

- 9 Approve
- 10 Tyrants
- 14 Mechanical learning
- 19 Brewing need
- 22 Pooch pest
- 23 Eye parts
- 24 Ordinary
- 25 Amber
- 26 Sport with blades
- 28 Area under a wave
- 30 Oxford parts
- 31 Short putt
- 32 That is: Latin
- 33 Centers
- 38 Permit
- 39 "Lenore" writer

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40					41				
42					43				

10-3

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-3

CRYPTOQUOTE

CTT E'UY SKM EQ LY. CZG

MPCM EQ YZKOSP. — UEKTC

GCUEQ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I WOULD RATHER SIT ON A PUMPKIN, AND HAVE IT ALL TO MYSELF, THAN BE CROWDED ON A VELVET CUSHION. HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Microsoft CEO says unfair practices by Google led to its dominance as a search engine

By Suman Naishadham

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said Monday that unfair tactics used by Google led to its dominance as a search engine, tactics that in turn have thwarted his company's rival program, Bing.

Nadella testified in a packed Washington, D.C., courtroom as part of the government's landmark antitrust trial against Google's parent company, Alphabet. The Justice Department alleges Google has abused the dominance of its ubiquitous search engine to throttle competition and innovation at the expense of consumers, allegations that echo a similar case brought against Microsoft in the late 1990s.

Nadella said Google's dominance was due to agreements that made it the default browser on smartphones and computers. He downplayed the idea that artificial intelligence or more niche search engines like Amazon or social media sites have meaningfully changed the market in which Microsoft competes with Google.

Nadella said users fundamentally don't have much choice in switching out of default web browsers on cellphones and computers. Google's lead litigator John Schmittlein questioned Nadella about instances when users switched from Bing to Google even when Microsoft's search engine had default status on their devices — arguing that Microsoft made missteps with Bing that prevented it from rivaling Google.

When questioned, Nadella denied that Bing's adoption of artificial intelligence



Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella speaks, Feb. 7, 2023, in Redmond, Wash.

Associated Press

had led to dramatic shifts in its market share. Google has argued that artificial intelligence programs like chatbot ChatGPT have increased competition in the search engine market.

"Even the app store downloads are interesting but not ... something you write home about," Nadella said about Microsoft's revamped search engine enhanced with artificial intelligence.

Nadella was called to the witness stand as the biggest U.S. antitrust trial in the past quarter-century moved into its fourth week of testimony before U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta, who isn't expected to issue a decision in the case until next year.

The Justice Department's antitrust case against Google centers on deals the company struck with Apple and other device makers to use Google's search engine.

In the 1990s, Microsoft faced accusations it set up its Windows software in ways that walled off applications made by other tech companies, just as Google is now facing accusations of shelling out bil-

ions of dollars each year to lock in its search engine as the go-to place for finding online information on smartphones and web browsers.

In an ironic twist, the constraints and distractions posed by the government's antitrust case against Microsoft helped provide a springboard for Google to turn its search engine into a dominant force. By the time Microsoft started its scramble to develop its own search engine, Google had already become synonymous with looking things up on the internet.

But Microsoft nevertheless has poured billions of dollars trying to mount a serious challenge to Google with Bing and, at one point, even tried to buy Yahoo for more than \$40 billion in a bid that was rejected while Steve Ballmer was still the software maker's CEO.

Nadella, who was working at Microsoft during the late 1990s antitrust showdown with the Justice Department, succeeded Ballmer as CEO in 2014. During his tenure, he has steered to Microsoft huge gains in personal and cloud computing that have boosted the company's stock price by nearly nine -fold since he took over while creating more than \$2 trillion in shareholder wealth.

Despite all that success, he hasn't been able to make any significant inroads in search against Google, with Bing still a distant second in the market. □

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Stock market today: Most of Wall Street slips as the bond market cranks up the pressure

By Stan Choe
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks mostly slipped in mixed trading Monday as the constrictor of higher interest rates tightened its coils around Wall Street.

The S&P 500 edged up by 0.34, or less than 0.1%, to 4,288.39, coming off its worst month of the year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 74.15 points, or 0.2%, to 33,433.35, and the Nasdaq composite rose 88.45, or 0.7%, to 13,307.77.

Slumps for oil-and-gas stocks weighed on the market after crude prices gave back some of the sharp gains made since the summer. The majority of stocks fell alongside them, with more than three quarters of those within the S&P 500 sinking, but gains for Apple and other influential Big Tech stocks helped support indexes.

Stocks have broadly given back 40% of their strong gains for the year since the end of July. The main reason is Wall Street's growing acceptance that high interest rates are here to stay a while as the Federal Reserve tries to knock high inflation lower. That in turn has pushed Treasury yields to their highest levels in more than a decade.

The yield on the 10-year



The American flag is shown at the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 in New York. Stocks shifted between gains and losses on Wall Street Wednesday, keeping the market on track for its fourth monthly loss this year.
(AP Photo/Julia Nikhinson)

Treasury climbed again Monday, up to 4.67% from 4.58% late Friday, and is near its highest level since 2007. High yields send investors toward bonds that are paying much more than in the past, which pulls dollars away from stocks and undercuts their prices. Stocks that pay high dividends with relatively steady businesses see particular pain because their investors are more likely to switch between stocks and bonds. That puts a harsh spotlight on utility companies. PG&E dropped 5.6%, and Dominion Energy sank 5.3% for some of the sharpest losses in the S&P 500.

High interest rates also make borrowing more

expensive for all kinds of companies, which can pressure their profits. Since the Federal Reserve indicated last month it likely won't cut rates as much in 2024 as earlier expected, the value of the U.S. dollar has also climbed against other currencies. □



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Arrest in Tupac Shakur killing stemmed from Biggie Smalls death investigation

By Rio Yamat and Ken Ritter
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The first arrest in the 1996 slaying of Tupac Shakur had its roots in the investigation of the killing of Biggie Smalls.

The shooting deaths of the two hip-hop luminaries and rivals Shakur in Las Vegas and Smalls in Los Angeles six months later have always been culturally inseparable, and one man, Duane Keffe D. Davis, found himself involved in both investigations.

On Friday, Davis was arrested and charged with murder, with prosecutors saying he ordered and masterminded the Shakur killing.

Now retired Los Angeles police detective Greg Kading was assigned to investigate the slaying of Smalls whose legal name was Christopher Wallace and in 2009 interviewed Davis as a person of interest in the case. Davis had had been at the party at the Peterson Automotive Museum that Wallace had just left when he was shot.

Kading had helped build a federal drug case against Davis to get leverage to compel him to talk to Los Angeles police, who to date have made no arrests in the Wallace case.

"He confesses to his involvement in the Tupac Shakur case, he gives all the details of how he and his co-conspirators killed Tupac," Kading recalled in an interview Friday with The Associated Press.

Davis, who had immunity for what he said in his police interview but not what he said outside it, went on to divulge many of the same details in documentaries, on podcasts and in a tell-all 2019 memoir that would give new life to the Las Vegas police probe and help lead to his grand jury indictment.

"He has essentially talked himself right into jail," Kading said.

Davis had long been known to investigators as



Rapper Tupac Shakur, left, and Death Row Records Chairman Marion Suge Knight, attend a voter registration event in South Central Los Angeles, on Aug. 15, 1996.

(AP Photo/Frank Wiese/File)

one of four suspects identified early in the investigation. He isn't the accused gunman but was described as the group's ringleader by authorities at a news conference and in court. In Nevada a defendant can be charged with a crime, including murder, if you help someone commit the crime.

Davis, now 60, said in his memoir, "Compton Street Legend," that he provided the gun used in the drive-by shooting.

Davis was arrested early Friday while on a walk near his home on the outskirts of Las Vegas, hours before prosecutors announced in court that a Nevada grand jury had indicted the self-described "gangster" on one count of murder with a deadly weapon. He is due in court next week.

The grand jury also voted to add a sentencing enhancement to the murder charge for gang activity that could add up to 20 additional years if he's convicted.

Hundreds of pages of tran-

scripts released Friday provide a view into the first month of grand jury proceedings, which began in late July with testimony from former associates of Davis, friends of Shakur and a slate of retired police officers involved in the case early on.

Their testimony painted a picture for the jurors of a deep, escalating rift between Shakur's music label Death Row Records and Bad Boy Records, which had ties to Davis and represented Wallace.

"It started the whole West Coast/East Coast" rivalry that primarily defined the hip-hop scene during the mid-1990s, one of Davis' former associates testified. Davis denied an interview request Friday from jail, and court records don't list an attorney who can comment on his behalf.

Phone and text messages to Davis and his wife on Friday and in the months raided their home in the nearby city of Henderson on July 17 were not returned.

In a statement Friday, Seky-



This booking photo provided by the Las Vegas Police Department shows Duane "Keffe D" Davis, Friday, Sept. 29, 2023, in Las Vegas.

(Las Vegas Police Department via AP)

iwa "Set" Shakur, the rapper's sister, described the arrest as a victory, but in a measured tone.

"This is no doubt a pivotal moment. The silence of the past 27 years surrounding this case has spoken loudly in our community," she said. "It's important to me that the world, the country, the justice system, and our people acknowledge the gravity of the passing of this

man, my brother, my mother's son, my father's son."

She gave no praise to the authorities who have worked the case.

"I know there's been many people who did not believe that the murder of Tupac Shakur was important to this police department," Sheriff Kevin McMahon said at a news conference Friday. "I'm here to tell you, that was simply not the case. It was not the case back then, and it is not the case today."

He added, "every single victim, every life that is lost is important and remains a priority to this police department."

On the night of Sept. 7, 1996, Tupac Shakur and Death Row Records founder Marion "Suge" Knight were in Las Vegas to watch a Mike Tyson heavyweight title match.

Outside the fight just after it ended, the men were involved in a brawl with Davis and his nephew, Orlando "Baby Lane" Anderson, with whom Shakur had feuded previously.

Later that night, Shakur was sitting in a BMW that Knight was driving when a Cadillac pulled up next to them and gunfire erupted.

Shakur was shot multiple times and died a week later at the age of 25.

Davis, in his memoir, said he was in the front passenger seat of the Cadillac and had slipped a gun into the back seat, from where he said the shots were fired.

He implicated Anderson, saying he was one of two people in the backseat.

Anderson died two years later. He denied any involvement in Shakur's death.

The rapper's death came as his fourth solo album, "All Eyez on Me," remained on the charts, with some 5 million copies sold.

Nominated six times for a Grammy Award, Shakur is still largely considered one of the most influential and versatile rappers of all time. □



Milwaukee Brewers starting pitcher Brandon Woodruff throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, in Miami.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

Brewers pitcher Brandon Woodruff will miss Wild Card Series with shoulder injury

By Rich Rovito
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee Brewers starting pitcher Brandon Woodruff will miss this week's Wild Card Series against Arizona because of a right shoulder injury.

"Frankly, his availability for the postseason is up in the air at this point," manager Craig Counsell said Monday, a day before the

opener of the best-of-three series against the Diamondbacks.

Woodruff is dealing with what Counsell described as a capsular injury. He had been expected to start Game 2 for the NL Central champions, following Corbin Burnes.

Counsell said Woodruff is seeking a second opinion and likely won't have the

results until the end of the week.

Woodruff, a 30-year-old right-hander, was 5-1 with a 2.28 ERA in 11 starts. He last pitched on Sept. 23 in Miami, giving up four runs and six hits in five innings.

Woodruff made two starts in April, then was sidelined until Aug. 6 with a subscapular strain. □

Illegal sports wagering case against Iowa State tight end dismissed because state missed deadline

By Eric Olson
Associated Press

AMES, Iowa (AP) — An Iowa State football player accused of illegal sports wagering has had his case dismissed and faces no more legal action.

A Story County judge granted the prosecution's motion on Monday to dismiss a misdemeanor tampering with records charge against tight end DeShawn Hanika after the state waited too long to indict him.

Hanika's attorneys originally asked for the dismissal, and prosecutors agreed, because Hanika was not indicted within 45 days after he waived a preliminary trial, as state law requires. The deadline was Sept. 24, and he was not indicted until Sept. 28. Story County prosecutors



Iowa State tight end DeShawn Hanika walks on the field during an NCAA college football game, Sept. 17, 2022, in Ames, Iowa.

(AP Photo/Justin Hayworth, File)

did not respond to a message seeking comment.

Hanika was among more than a dozen athletes who were charged in connection with a state investigation into illegal sports wa-

gering at Iowa and Iowa State. Most were accused of underage gambling and registering accounts on mobile sports betting apps under a different name to disguise their

identity.

Hanika was alleged to have made 288 bets, with 70 on Iowa State basketball. He pleaded not guilty. NCAA rules call for varying lengths of suspensions,

up to permanent bans, for athletes who violate its gambling policy. Hanika has not played this season but remains on the roster. Four criminal cases involving athletes with Iowa State ties remain open.

Defensive lineman Isaiah Lee and running back Jirehl Brock, neither of whom remain in the football program, and ISU wrestler Paniro Johnson each face a misdemeanor charge of tampering with records and a felony identity theft charge. Jury trials are scheduled for Johnson this month and for Lee and Brock in November.

No trial date has been set for Eyioma Uwazurike, a defensive lineman now with the Denver Broncos but suspended by the NFL for allegedly wagering on NFL games. □

Warriors star Klay Thompson is open to playing for the Bahamas in the Paris Olympics

By Janie McCauley
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Warriors star Klay Thompson would seriously consider playing for his father's native country of the Bahamas in the Paris Olympics next year.

"That'd be cool," Thompson, 33, said at Monday's media day, "because my dad never got the opportunity."

The Golden State guard won a gold medal with the U.S. team at the 2016 Rio

Games and would have to go through several steps to become eligible to play for another country — such as having a passport from the Bahamas, being released by the Americans and receiving approval from the International Basketball Federation. Thompson's father was born in Nassau.

Veteran Suns guard Eric Gordon, whose mother is from the Caribbean country, joined the Bahamas national team as it tries to qualify for Paris.

A five-time All-Star who has helped the Warriors to four championships, Thompson finally feels like he will be his dominant self again after missing more than 2 1/2 years after the 2019 Finals recovering from surgeries for a torn ACL in his left knee then a torn right Achilles tendon repair. He fully expects to be an All-Star again.

While chasing another championship and his personal goals are top priority for now, the Olympics

clearly are on his mind and potentially in the plans. "The Bahamas is a place where my story cannot be

told without it," Thompson said. "It's dear to my heart, so yeah, that would be sweet." □



Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson poses for photos during the NBA basketball team's media day in San Francisco, Monday, Oct. 2, 2023.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

Joe Burrow and the Bengals have a lot of problems to fix and dwindling time to do it



Tennessee Titans linebacker Azeez Al-Shaair (2) hits Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow (9) during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, in Nashville, Tenn.

(AP Photo/George Walker IV)

By Mitch Stacy
Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Cincinnati Bengals are a mess, and there's plenty of blame to go around. Quarterback Joe Burrow is clearly not himself as he nurses a calf injury. The Bengals' defense isn't carrying its weight, either, allowing Derrick Henry to run wild in Sunday's 27-3 rout by the Tennessee Titans, a team Cincinnati has owned in recent seasons. The Bengals (1-3) have myriad problems to address and a tough schedule. If they don't turn it around, the season could spiral fast.

"There's a long season ahead still, but we don't have many disregards left," center Ted Karras said. "We can't just say, 'Forget about that one.' We need to come out and get (wins)."

This Bengals team was thought to have the talent to make another Super Bowl run, led by Burrow, the league's most accurate quarterback and its highest-paid player.

But after a disastrous start, Cincinnati is going to need some of the old Burrow magic to stay in the AFC North race and make the playoffs. Thus far, the star quarterback hasn't been able to summon it.

He's having trouble evading the rush and scrambling, and his passing has been uncharacteristically inaccurate. The Bengals were held to 211 total yards on Sunday.

The Cincinnati defense suddenly can't stop the run, allowing 173 yards to the Titans. Defenders bounced off Henry, who rushed for 122 and a touchdown and threw for another score out of the wildcat. Ryan Tannehill passed for 240 yards and a TD.

"We practice hard. It's not that we don't practice hard," receiver Ja'Marr Chase said. "I guess we got to find that spark. Somebody's got to give us that spark."

Olympic leader Bach explains policy on helping Russians compete to Ukrainians at world athlete event

By Graham Dunbar
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Comparing the plight of Ukrainian athletes with those in another war-ravaged country Yemen, IOC president Thomas Bach explained to Olympic athlete groups Monday its policy on helping Russians compete with neutral status before the 2024 Paris Games.

The International Olympic Committee invited a global selection of athlete representatives to a two-day meeting while sports bodies work to shape their neutrality rules and assess individual Russians who want to return to international events and qualify for Paris. Ukrainian judoka Georgii Zantaraia told Bach his country did not understand why neutral status is being offered to Russian athletes and suggested any who disapproved of the war could compete in the Olympic refugee team.

"We all can understand the human suffering, the human feeling of the Ukrainian athletes," Bach told Zantaraia.

"We understand the difficulties they have like your fellow athletes in Yemen." Bach suggested the IOC took an unprecedented strong position on imposing limits on Russians in international sport when, he claimed, 28 wars are ongoing in the world.

"Some athletes and officials of other (Olympic teams) are accusing us of double standards," Bach told the athletes. "They say — 'And what about our war? What did you do then? Where have you been? Where are you?'" The reason given for unprecedented action was that Russia started its military invasion four days after the 2022 Beijing Olympics closed during the United Nations-backed Olympic Truce period.

Zantaraia was asked to question Bach minutes after his counterpart representing Yemen, boxer Mo-



A woman reacts during the All-National minute of silence in commemoration of Ukrainian soldiers killed in the country's war against Russia on Independence square in Kyiv, Ukraine, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023.

Associated Press

ammed Al-Qarnas, was called to speak and told how athletes in his country had felt forgotten.

War in Yemen since 2014 has killed more than 150,000 people and created a humanitarian disaster. Debate over reintegrating Russian athletes who have not supported the war — despite Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy calling for an outright ban — aired for a second straight day in the IOC's Swiss home city Lausanne.

"We should protect our fellow athletes who have nothing to do with this," Bach said Monday.

On Sunday, Ukrainian runner Anna Ryzhykova said Russian athletes had some responsibility because there were "zero cases" of speaking or acting against their government.

"They are involved, all of the athletes are involved in the war, because they keep silent. They don't do anything to stop this," insisted Ryzhykova, an Olympic finalist two years ago in Tokyo in the 400 meters hurdles.

"Every night Russia attacks us by missiles or drones. I live there. I don't know if I will wake up next morning," Ryzhykova said.

After she finished speaking, IOC Athletes' Commission member Sarah Walker came to hug Ryzhykova and sit with her.

"We hear you. I can speak for a lot of people in this room. It makes us sad. It's a horrible situation," Walker said.

"On the other hand, we also feel sad for other athletes that are in a horrible situation as well."

"One of the most amazing things about the Olympics is how it brings everyone in the world together. And the inspiration it gives for peace and unity," said Walker, who took silver for New Zealand in BMX cycling at the 2012 London Olympics.

Also in the room Sunday was Olympic refugee team head Tegla Loroupe, the two-time New York marathon winner who urged athletes from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine to unite and show an example to the world.

"My sister," Loroupe said addressing Ryzhykova, "I'm praying God gives you that courage that, tomorrow, you can be another leader."

After Loroupe cited Nelson Mandela's belief in the power of sport to unite, International Paralympic Committee delegate Vlada Kravchenko reminded that South Africa was banned from the Olympics while he was in jail during the Apartheid era.

"That is something to learn from the past," Kravchenko said. □